UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/285
7 April 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States, British and French aircraft continued over the period 16 to 31 March 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with these countries with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 16-31 March 1997

1. In the northern region 96 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Zakho, Aqrah Ayn Zalah and Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 670 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Qurnah, Kut, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Rumaythah, Salman, Busayyah, Jalibah, Artawi, Amarah, Chabaish, Lasaf, Hayy, Hamzah, Basra, Najaf, Ushbayjah, Suq al-Shuyukh, Hillah, Taqtaqanah, Diwaniyah, Khidr, Ali al-Sharqi, Shinafiyah and Muwaffaqiyah.

3. On 11 occasions United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.

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LETTER DATED 7 APRIL 1997 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 689 (1991) and in the light of your report (S/1997/255), the members of the Council have reviewed the question of termination or continuation of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), as well as its modalities of operation.

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Council concur with your recommendation that UNIKOM be maintained. In accordance with Council resolution 689 (1991), they have decided to review the question once again by 6 October 1997.

(Signed) António MONTEIRO
President of the Security Council

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